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THE MONGOOSE.

Mr. Jno. Austin gave an account of the Hilo planters' experience with mongoose. One year ago he and a few other planters in the Hilo district had sent a man to Jamaica, W. I., for as many mongoose as he could get readily. Their agent returned in a short time with seventy-two fine, healthy animals in pairs. The whole expense of procuring them was about \$1,100. These mongoose were distributed amongst the planters who had borne the expense, the speaker receiving four pair. He put two pair in one of his lower fields, and the other two in a field of rat-trees at a higher elevation. These fields, as well as the rest, were infested with rats at the time the mongoose were let loose. This was a year ago, and now the speaker said there was not a stick of rat-eaten cane to be found on his plantation, or a rat. In one field of 69½ acres, at some distance from where the mongoose had been placed, which had formerly been disastrously rat-infested the year before, there was not found, this season, a single stick bearing the marks of recent rat-bites. In the whole district from Onomea to Hilo, which embraced an area of something like 4000 acres of cane, there were no rats now. The saving in a single year, Mr. Austin stated, could not fall much short of \$50,000. He was satisfied that the mongoose were multiplying. Reliable reports had been received of their being seen in fourteen different localities on his plantation, and at least two females with young had been found there. His eight mongoose had cost him \$187, and he was very well satisfied with the investment. The animals would devour poultry and eggs, but the speaker had been informed that they did not touch the larger fowls. They were caught in the West Indies in traps baited with eggs and fresh meat. When they arrived they were vicious and bit hard. The negroes handle them with thick gloves.

Mr. Wilfong thought he would like to have some of these animals. He had offered to buy all the rats' tails his people would bring him, and received 200 in one day.

Mr. Davies said that Mr. Notley had done the same thing, and discovered that the Chinese brought the tails, but did not kill the rats.

After some further discussion the meeting adjourned until Thursday morning at 10 o'clock.

FOURTH DAY'S PROCEEDINGS.

At 10:30 A.M. Mr. Dole, Vice President of the P. L. & S. Co., called the meeting to order.

The minutes of the previous day's meeting were read and approved.

Mr. W. O. Smith spoke of the importance of sugar containers. He showed that it was the wisest economy to pack sugar in a good quality of bags. There was used on the islands about 900,000 bags per annum, and if there could be a saving of even one or two cents per bag it would amount in the aggregate to quite a sum.

Mr. R. A. Macfie, Jr., said that on Kilauea Plantation it paid them to import their own stout jute bags from Dundee. Their loss on sugar on account of bags bursting, or the sugar sifting through, was a little less than three-quarters of one per cent, while elsewhere it had been reported to be as high as five per cent.

Mr. Walsh reported the loss on Paia plantation as one per cent.

Mr. T. H. Davies stated that the average was one or one and a half per cent. Two per cent he considered a very high figure. It was very poor economy to use poor bags. He would like to get bags as cheap as possible, but he wanted the material to be all bag and not half holes. Mr. Davies also stated that the committee appointed to wait on the Minister of the Interior had done so, and had also met the President of the Board of Immigration, and that they had been promised a reply to the letter from the Society at 2 P.M.

On motion of Mr. S. B. Dole (the President, Mr. Austin, having taken his place) a new committee—that on fruit culture—was formed.

The President then presented the list of the committees for the present year, as follows:—

LABOR—A. H. Smith, J. L. Richardson, Chas. Notley, C. F. Hart, J. N. Wright.

CULTIVATION—J. M. Horner, E. M. Walsh, J. Ross, C. Sneyd-Kynnersley, J. K. Smith.

MACHINERY—R. Halstead, W. H. Bailey, Jas. Renton, C. C. Kennedy, W. E. Rowell.

LEGISLATION—T. H. Davies, S. B. Dole, C. R. Bishop, H. W. Mist, A. S. Hartwell.

RECIPROCITY—W. R. Castle, F. A. Schaefer, P. C. Jones, Jr., W. W. Hall, J. H. Paty.

TRANSPORTATION—W. E. Rowell, W. Y. Horner, J. M. Lydgate, R. R. Hind, T. S. Kay.

MANUFACTURE OF SUGAR—H. P. Baldwin, A. Lydgate, C. Koelling, A. Unna, Z. S. Spaulding.

LIVE STOCK—B. F. Dillingham, G. F. Holmes, A. S. Wilcox, W. H. Purvis, W. Forsythe Grant.

FORESTRY—W. H. Rickard, C. M. Cooke, C. R. Bishop, J. M. Alexander, H. F. Glade.

FERTILIZERS AND SEED CANE—G. H. Dole, G. C. Williams, A. Hanneberg, R. A. Macfie, Jr., E. G. Hitchcock.

VARIETIES OF CANE—H. M. Whitney, H. C. Austin, H. P. Baldwin, E. C. Bond, E. H. Bailey.

STATISTICS—W. O. Smith, P. C. Jones, Jr., W. F. Allen, J. B. Atherton, H. M. Whitney.

FRUIT CULTURE—J. M. Alexander, J. K. Smith, J. H. Paty, S. B. Dole, D. H. Hitchcock.

Mr. Macfie then read a very interesting report on the manufacture of sugar. The report stated that the last year had been one of great depression in the sugar markets of the world, and cheaper prices had been touched than had ever before been known in the history of that product. This was due in part to over-production—there being more sugar than consumers—and in part to the immense increase in the production of beet-root sugar. Some of the plantations in the West Indies that yielded but a small quantity of sugar to the acre had been obliged to cease manufacturing, and this might result in advancing prices a little. But the heavy stock that had been accumulating had not begun to diminish yet, and the beet-root sugar industry still flourished in spite of low prices. This was because they had brought to bear in their manufacturing all that skill and science could do to lessen the cost of production and increase the quantity of sugar to be obtained from the beet-root.

Here, the cane-sugar manufacturers had been blundering along, losing at the rolls 20 to 40 per cent. of the saccharine matter contained in the cane. Almost all the improvements that had been made were in the matters of labor and fuel. The double effect, a most valuable invention, had been adopted in but a few cases. The planter must produce cane sugar as cheaply as that obtained from beet-root. To do this the services of thoroughly competent chemists were necessary, and it was a matter of regret that the Trustees had not secured the services of one in accordance with the unanimous vote of the society last year. During the past year no new process had been developed here. The "diffusion" process had been a good deal talked about, and as if it was a new thing; when the fact was that it had been in operation for the past thirty-seven years, and it passed comprehension that the process, which had been the salvation of the beet-root sugar manufacturers, should not have been adopted here long ago.

The "Strontia" process of extracting the sugar from molasses seemed to the committee to be worthy of a trial here.

This experiment of sprinkling the bagasse as it left the rolls with hot water, which was now being tried, might, the Committee thought, be of advantage where there was an excess of bagasse for fuel.

The President remarked that the services of a skilled chemist were much to be desired. He could go from plantation to plantation examining the methods of testing employed and establishing some uniform plan. But at present he hardly thought that the Company was prepared to engage such an one's services.

Mr. Davies read a letter from Mr. Alex. Young of the Honolulu Iron-Works, describing the "Maceration and double pressing" process now being tried at Waiakae Mill. Mr.

Young was of the opinion that the cause of failure in sugar making was not so much the want of labor as it was the failure to extract all the saccharine matter from the cane. In each 500 gallon clarifier the loss was 20 per cent. Part of this was due to loss in crushing. Double crushing remedied this somewhat, and the "maceration" process he hoped would do still more. In this process hot water was sprayed upon the bagasse while it was expanding after leaving the first rolls, and it was then passed through another set. The water added has to be evaporated again, and the bagasse is not so good for fuel. But good Sydney coal (worth say \$10 per ton) will evaporate 6 pounds of water for each pound of coal. The latter was ordered placed on file and to be printed in *Planters' Monthly*.

Mr. Horner stated a gentleman of experience who had examined our methods of crushing had told him that there was as much sugar in the bagasse that went into our trash houses, as there was in an equal weight of fresh beet-root. If that were so, he did not see but that we had beet-root without raising it.

A vote of thanks was tendered the committees of last year, and also to Messrs. Koelling and Young for their valuable papers on topics of interest.

A resolution was passed empowering the Trustees to take action on applications from members who wished to withdraw from the society.

In the afternoon session Senor Canavaro, the Portuguese Commissioner, was present. A vote of thanks was tendered Mr. James Campbell for the gratuitous use of the room in which the society was holding its session; after which Mr. Davies took the chair while the President read a paper, in which he reviewed the work of the society since its organization, in March, 1882. He pointed out what he considered to be the future course to be taken by the organization. They should stand close together and endeavor to give each other the benefit of each one's experience. They had always been the friends of the Hawaiian race. The treaty required to be carefully watched.

The speaker's remarks were received with applause, and the paper ordered printed in the *Planters' Monthly*.

The *Planters' Monthly* was ordered continued, with a vote of thanks to the editor for his services in that capacity.

Senor Canavaro, Portuguese Commissioner, on invitation, made some remarks on the adaptability of his countrymen for planting on shares or otherwise cultivating small plots for their own benefit. Mr. Dole recommended the adoption of some such scheme wherever practicable.

Senor Canavaro stated that some few of those who wished to secure land had a little money, and that if it was found practicable to establish small colonies, say not to exceed eight in each, he would be glad to give his time to seeing that a perfect understanding was established between the contracting parties.

Mr. Austin, spoke highly of the industry of the Portuguese in their own garden plots, and that the result, he thought, would be a material increase in the production of sugar.

It was finally arranged that Senor Canavaro should address a letter to the President of the Society on the subject and that he should then get the views of the planters and present them to the Portuguese Commissioner.

Mr. Davies presented the reply of the Minister of Foreign Affairs to the deputation of the morning. It was as follows:

OFFICE OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
Honolulu, Oct. 23, 1884.

Messrs. Jno. Austin, Jno. M. Horner, A. Unua, and T. H. Davies.

GENTLEMEN: In the absence of His Ex. Mr. Gulick, I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of yesterday's date addressed to him as President of the Board of Immigration in which, on behalf of the *Planters' Labor and Supply Co.*, you set forth the apprehensions of the planters as to a scarcity of labor and enquire how far they may count on a supply of laborers from Japan, and in which you also express the opinion that, if there be any doubt as to an adequate supply from that source the

present restrictions on Chinese immigration be relaxed.

In reply I have the pleasure to state that the Government have most explicit assurances that an immigration of Japanese to the extent of 6000, of whom four-fifths will be men, may be relied on during the year 1885 if the Government should find itself in a position to make the requisite advances to provide for their passages to this country and for other incidental expenses. In addition to this we are informed that about 600 first-class sugar planting laborers may be expected here within a few weeks from this date, leaving Japan sometime in November. The numbers indicated ought to suffice for all possible wants of the plantations.

The Government cannot, however, rely upon being able to make provision out of revenue for the large advances which would be required for this immigration, and can only say that as many will be brought here as the means at its disposal will allow. I have to suggest that it is desirable that you should give the Government an estimate of the number of laborers which are likely to be required by the planters within the next twelve months.

The removal of the restrictions on Chinese immigration would be a step involving grave national consequences, and the Government will need to deliberate carefully before undertaking it, in the event of its being shown to be necessary. Under the regulations as they stand a very considerable number of Chinese have arrived in the country during the past few months. At least one half of those who have gone away since the Regulations were published have provided themselves beforehand with permits to return, and as such permits can be obtained in Hongkong as well as here, it is probable that more than that proportion will actually return to this country. The total number leaving during the year has not been very great. I hope that it will not be found necessary to retreat from a policy which has been viewed with so much satisfaction by the people generally, and also cordially approved by friendly Powers; and I am persuaded that it will not be necessary if the immigration of Japanese can be carried out with the spirit with which it is being initiated.

I have the honor to remain, etc.,
W. M. GIBSON,

The letter was ordered on file, and an interesting debate took place upon the subject matter of the reply, which time and want of space compels us to hold over for to-morrow's issue.

FOURTH DAY'S PROCEEDINGS CONCLUDED.

In the discussion that followed the reading and acceptance of the letter from the Minister of Foreign Affairs, which we published on the previous day.

Mr. J. M. Horner said that he wanted to strike the subject just right—he did not want to have any erroneous impression in regard to the meaning of the letter. As he understood it, it did not show that the Government intended to persist in keeping out the Chinese, but that it hoped it would not be found necessary to admit them again. In regard to Japanese, he thought the planters would not need more than 3000, no matter how many it might be practicable to obtain. He thought that the introduction of 200 opposition laborers into the Hamakua district would have the effect of reducing present wages at least \$5 per month.

Mr. James Marsden thought that the planters might assist the Government by advancing a little money which, added to the amounts to be paid on the arrival of the first 600 Japanese, would cover the expense of a second load.

Mr. Davies thought this plan not feasible. It was not thousands of dollars that we talked about in immigration matters, but hundreds of thousands. He thought it best that the members should sleep on this matter, and decide upon one point at least, and that was the approximate number of laborers each would require during the coming year. This was asked for by the Minister, and they must, of course, be able to name some number in their reply.

Mr. Jno. Austin endorsed Mr. Davies' views. They needed labor. They were in *extremis* on account of

that need. He thought that they should have the question thoroughly settled before their final adjournment. If the Government did not seem willing to help the planters in this matter, he thought some plan might be concerted that might make it unpleasant for the Government. If the planters were not permitted to help themselves in this matter, they must decide upon some plan for influencing those who have influence with the Government in removing, to some extent, the present restrictions upon admitting Chinese labor.

Mr. Macfie was of the opinion that for the last five years the planters had leaned too much upon the Government for the introduction of labor. The remedy for high wages that has been proposed—that is the introduction of a limited number of Chinamen—would, he thought, produce only momentary relief. Wages would go down when the door was opened, and rise again when it was closed. Then more must come in to lower wages again; and, after a little, they would go up again. So it would go on unless Japanese were brought in. They would antagonize the Chinese element, and wages would remain steady.

Mr. W. H. Rickard said that if the Government was, as our President reports, indifferent to the introduction of labor, he would like to know what they are interested in. But this could not be, they were interested, though they may think they were not. If one, two, or three plantations stop, how quickly it would be felt. The Government seemed to be like a big factory into which the planters, working like bees from one day to another, from week's end to week's end, kept pouring honey which they eat up. They cannot continue working at a loss. Agents were risking placing themselves in monetary peril by making advances to plantations that were now being run at a loss on account of high rates of wages. The plantations are the life of the country, and the planters must have their wants supplied.

Celestine W. F. Allen said that bringing Japanese here would be an experiment. At present, what the planters really need is an immediate supply of Chinese.

Mr. Frederick Smith, representing Grove Ranch Plantation, was of the opinion that there was men enough now. What they wanted was cheap labor. If 2000 men were dropped down here now it would be better than to have 6000 strung along through the year.

Mr. Davies reminded the members that they had committed themselves to the statement that they wanted men, and he thought that when a planter said he or they did not want men, the statement was misleading. He did not think they could call that class who demanded higher wages than could be afforded "labor."

President Austin requested members to come together the next day prepared to give an estimate of the number of men each needed.

The report of the Committee on Forestry was read by Mr. Dole, and ordered to be printed in the *Planters' Monthly*.

Several members spoke on the subject, giving brief statements as to the amount of tree planting they had done. Upon motion, a vote of thanks was tendered Mr. A. Jaeger for the interest he had taken in tree-planting, etc.

The meeting then adjourned until 10 A.M. on Friday.

FIFTH DAY'S PROCEEDINGS.

The *Planters' Labor and Supply Company's* meeting was called to order by the President at 10:30 A.M. The minutes of the previous day's proceedings were read and approved.

The Secretary reported, and read Mr. A. Jaeger's letter acknowledging the receipt of the company's letter of thanks, and making a suitable reply to the same.

The labor question was then taken up, and the President's call for an approximate estimate showed that there would be needed during the year 4000 laborers.

Mr. Horner stated that he had examined the model of Mr. Coleman's new cane-planter, and was of the opinion that it presented some useful and practicable features.

Mr. Davies said that not long ago a great pressure had been brought to bear upon the Government to restrain Chinese immigration. It had then